(iii) Intensive prevention and interdiction efforts along known drug routes.

(iv) Improved co-ordination between various drug law enforcement agencies in order to impart greater cohesion and a multi-agency approach.

(v) Demand reduction efforts undertaken by NCB in coordination with NGOs and field units to create awareness against drug abuse.

In order to combat trafficking across Indo-Pak border, specific steps undertaken are:

(i) Exchange of information on traffickers during border meetings between BSF and Rangers of Pakistan.

(ii) Developing intelligence on traffickers smuggling drugs across Indo-Pak border in coordination with other agencies.

(iii) Regular bi-annual meetings with Anti Narcotics Force of Pakistan and exchange of intelligence relating to drug trafficking with NCB.

(iv) Notifying a 50 Kms. area along the Indo-Pak border Customs Act for preventing trafficking of precursor chemicals.

Categorisation of Ajmer city

†2852. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether category of Ajmer city of Rajasthan has been changed from category 'B' to 'C;

(b) if so, what is the basis of the same; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) Based on 2001 Census, Ajmer (UA) was classified as 'C class city in O.M. issued on 18.11.2004.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi

Subsequently, orders have been issued on 16.3.2005 that cities/towns which have been placed in a lower classification shall continue to retain their existing classification until further orders. In view of this, Ajmer continues to retain its existing 'B' class classification for the purpose of drawal of HRA/CCA to Central Government employees.

Increase in coverage of pension scheme

2853. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only about 11 per cent of the total population of our country is covered by a proper pension scheme and a large number of people are still not covered by pensions so far;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for increasing coverage of pension scheme in various fields?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Retirement Benefits in one form or the other are available to only about 13% of the working population of the country.

(b) and (c) Government has already implemented a new restructured defined contribution pension scheme, namely, New Pension System (NPS) for all Central Government recruits (excluding Armed Forces, in the first stage) with effect from 1.1.2004. The NPS will also be available on a voluntary basis to all persons including self-employed professionals and others in the unorganised sector. State Governments may also opt to join the new system as and when they desire.

As regard to Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995, benefits of pension are available to all the eligible employees of an establishment to which the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 applies.

As on 31.3.2004 there were 280.90 lakh members under the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.